

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Problems of Animal Diseases and Seed on East German Farms	DATE DISTR.	29 June 1955 25X1
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DATE ACQUIRED		This is UNEVALUATED Information	

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. Recent directives by the East German Government show increased pressure on farmers to join the VEG (nationalized farm organizations) and the LPG (Agricultural Production Cooperatives). Private cooperative societies must transfer all assets to the LPG; they may no longer own land (except for small gardens), domestic animals, or buildings. Even owners of large farms are being encouraged to join the LPG, although they were originally forbidden to do so. The SED Party organizations in both the VEG and the LPG are very strong. Similar organizations in the Farmers' Party and the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) have been disbanded. It is rumored that "reactionary" officials in the VEG and LPG are to be discharged. 25X1
2. Both nationalized and cooperative associations are expected to show a considerable deficit in 1955; after 1956, however, they are expected to show a profit.
3. Seed supplies are allegedly critical. Seed of the best quality is distributed mainly to the VEGs, with a small proportion to the LPGs. It is believed that none is distributed to the Farmers' Cooperatives (BHG) for individual farms. Furthermore, the government plans to requisition seed forcibly from large farms which have their own supply.
4. The chicken pest, imported from Poland, is allegedly spreading throughout East Germany and threatening poultry breeding, especially in the northern districts. The hog market is also affected by similar plagues; it is rumored that 800 young hogs died in the Brandenburg/Havel area alone.
5. While there is a decrease in cattle tuberculosis, cases of rinderpest have appeared in the districts of Neubrandenburg, Frankfurt/Oder, Potsdam, and Cottbus.
6. The winter crop was very poor, partially because of poor seed and partially because many of the fields were low and were ruined by too much moisture. The spring planting was also delayed by the long winter, the lack of farm

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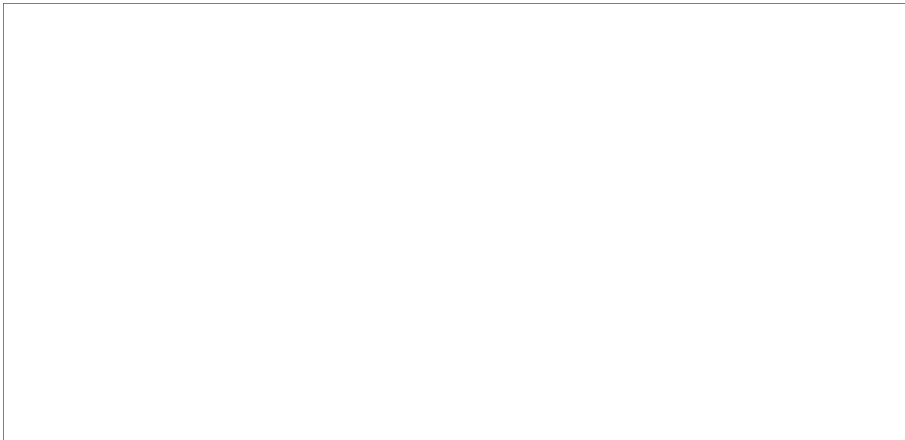
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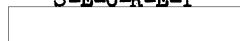
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laborers, damaged equipment, and slow deliveries of fertilizers. The same factors have adversely affected the fruit-growing industry and possibly may affect the feed supplies during the coming year.



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